

HUGHES GETS A \$25,000 FEE

FOR HIS WORK AS CHIEF INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR.

Armstrong Committee Awards \$25,000 to James McKee, Associate Counsel, for His Work as Chief Insurance Investigator.

The Armstrong committee, whose investigation covered an upheaval in the life insurance business of the State and upon whose recommendations some very drastic provisions regulating the business were made, last night awarded a fee of \$25,000 to James McKee, associate counsel of the committee, for his work as chief insurance investigator.

The committee, which was organized by Governor Hughes, and which has been working for some time, last night awarded a fee of \$25,000 to James McKee, associate counsel of the committee, for his work as chief insurance investigator.

The final meeting of the committee was held in the Breton Hotel, which has been its headquarters since the taking of testimony was finished. Every member was present, together with the counsel and others who had taken an active part in bringing to light the methods of the big life insurance companies. They were in session nearly all day and much of the time was devoted to a tabulation of the expenses and the allotment of counsel fees.

When the meeting was over Chairman Armstrong gave out a detailed statement of the money spent upon the investigation, something, it was said, that was never done before in the history of legislative inquiries.

An allowance of \$100,000 was made by the Legislature and it will be available as soon as the Governor signs the Supply bill. The gross total of expenditures for the investigation was \$101,519.93. From this is to be deducted \$5,000, the cost of 750 sets of the reports of the committee, which will be paid for from another appropriation. Thus the actual total spent by the committee was \$96,519.93, which in the opinion of the committee is not large considering the length of the investigation, the number of sessions and the amount of testimony taken, which measures up about \$1,000,000.

To Charles E. Hughes, the chief investigator, was awarded \$25,000 as counsel fee and \$1,254.43 for disbursements, making a total of \$26,254.43. James McKee, associate counsel, got \$17,500 and \$301.86 for disbursements. Matthew C. Fleming, the assistant counsel, got \$10,000 and \$31.83 for disbursements. The total of the counsel fees without their disbursements was \$53,500.

To M. M. Dawson, the attorney of the committee, was awarded \$4,000 with \$90.50 for disbursements, and Marvin Souder, the financial statistician, got \$5,000.

The expenses of the committee members, including car fare, hotel bills and the like, footed up \$11,197.22, while the sergeant-at-arms and his assistants got \$3,333.85.

One of the items of the bill over which there was some curiosity was for the official stenography. There was considerable criticism at first over the action of the committee in giving the work to the official stenographer of the Senate in spite of the fact that the Law Reporting Company offered to do it for much less than the legal rate, hoping to make good by selling copies of the testimony to lawyers and newspapers from day to day. It was said at that time that the stenographers' fee would be at least \$15,000. As a matter of fact, the bill was allowed at \$18,000. This involved the cost of taking and transcribing the 3,000,000 words. An allowance of \$500 was also made for the stenography at the hearings before the committee at Albany. Senator Armstrong said yesterday that in the opinion of the committee the relations of the stenographer were of such a confidential nature that they were warranted in making the selection without competition.

The bill for printing 600 extra copies of the proceedings was audited at \$3,028.52, and the printing of the report of the committee to the Legislature cost \$1,000. Other items of expense were:

Room in Breton Hotel, \$1,054.35
Private stenographer, orderlies and provisions, \$1,760.10
Postage, \$400.25
Cost of testimony, \$1,000.00
Van Duzee, special attorney, \$251.00
Witness fees, \$140.00
Conference with insurance commissioners, \$100.00
From other States, \$65.00

G. W. PERRINS MAY QUIT TOO.

Not Likely to Be Candidate for Re-election as N. Y. Life Director.

It was said on good authority yesterday that George W. Perkins probably will not be a candidate for re-election to the New York Life Insurance Company's board of trustees next December. Mr. Perkins, when he was questioned, declined to discuss the matter.

The management of the company will have until July 15 to name its ticket. It was said that Mr. Perkins, if he refused to stand for re-election, will do so because of the new Armstrong committee laws which forbid any trustee to be particularly interested in any transaction with his insurance company. That will, of course, include the transactions which a trustee's firm may have with the insurance company.

The new law is being construed by some lawyers to mean not only that a trustee should not profit through his firm's sale of bonds to a life insurance company, but also that he shall not profit indirectly through underwriting syndicates. Some bankers who are trustees have already signified their intention of resigning, as the sacrifice would, they say, be too great.

Mr. Perkins, when he was vice-president of the New York Life, drawing a salary, turned back into the New York Life his share of the profits which J. P. Morgan & Co. made in transactions with the New York Life.

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CZAR POSTPONES THE CRISIS

WOULD HEAR THE DUMA BEFORE HANDS TO GO TO WAR.

Reverend Father Peter of the Empire, who is visiting England, has just telegraphed to the Council of the Empire, advising that he is not going to Russia until Sunday.

The members of the Duma generally express the conviction that the granting of amnesty will avail nothing unless a responsible constitutional Ministry is granted.

The Council of the Empire has adjourned for a week.

M. Spiloff returned to Moscow tonight to consult with the Moderate Reform party as to how to act in the coming crisis.

The Duma's demands as formulated in its address have aroused the strongest opposition in the court party and among conservatives generally.

The official newspapers do not report the proceedings of the Duma, but they print columns of telegrams from conservative and bureaucratic societies protesting against amnesty and demanding that the Duma be dissolved.

There is a general feeling of depression and uncertainty. It is stated that fresh troops have been sent to the Baltic provinces.

When the Duma resumes its sitting an interpellation signed by forty-seven deputies will be addressed to the Cabinet.

It will be equivalent to a demand for the prosecution of officials guilty of massacres and lawless imprisonments.

LONDON, May 18.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Telegraph asserts that the Crown is determined to refuse to abolish the Council of the Empire or to confine the selection of Ministers to the parliamentary majority.

Neither will it surrender its power to the democrats nor expropriate the land of private individuals.

MRS. H. GOULD'S RAILWAY TRIP

Makes a Successful Ascent in England and Enters H. H.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, May 18.—Mrs. Howard Gould made a balloon ascent from Wandsworth today in company with Lord Rossmore, Prof. Huntington and others.

The balloon reached a height of 1,000 feet, and descended at Ashford, about 15 miles from London.

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MANY LOST IN FOREST FIRE.

FIRE DESTROYED VILLAGES IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
MILWAUKEE, May 18.—Advises from northern Michigan up to 11 o'clock tonight indicate that the worst forest fire since the town of Phillips was destroyed in 1904 is raging on the upper peninsula.

The latest reports are that a tract thirty miles square, including the northern half of Menominee county, the eastern part of Dickinson county and the western part of De Kalb county, has been devastated.

Six villages are reported to have been wiped out, and the loss of life is believed to have been heavy.

Efforts are being made to get details of the conflagration, but they have proved almost unavailing, inasmuch as all telegraph and telephone communication with the fire-wrecked district has been destroyed.

Escanaba, De Kalb county, which telegraphed the first news of the fire, has been isolated.

Iron Mountain, the center of the great Menominee range iron district and county seat of Dickinson county, has been cut off from the outside world.

A despatch from Marinette at 10:45 P. M. announced that the town of Phillips, the headquarters of a big paper mill company, is in flames.

Quinnessee is only five miles from Iron Mountain.

The only hope of preventing frightful loss of life in the afflicted district is contained in a telephone message from Marinette at 11 o'clock, saying that a light sprinkle of rain is falling there, and that the wind seems to have died down.

This, it is believed, was the last message sent out of Escanaba. The telegraph company after receiving this message lost communication with that city, probably owing to fires along the railway right of way.

It appears that all the damage of which any details are known was done this afternoon. There appears to be no way to get further information of what may have happened since that time. The railways are able to get no word of the progress of the flames.

PRESIDENT DISPLEASED

More Senate Plans for New Level Canal Will Delay Building.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—President Roosevelt is greatly displeased at the action of the Senate Committee on Intercommerce in deciding to recommend the one level type for the Panama Canal. He said today that should Congress adopt the one level canal bill it would throw everything into chaos and probably postpone the construction of the canal for a quarter of a century.

Understandings Reached on Interests in Persia and Elsewhere.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.
LONDON, May 18.—The Standard says that an Anglo-Russian understanding, which has been discussed by the British and Russian governments at intervals since 1903, is nearing final negotiation.

Russia abandons her claim to a port or railroad on the Persian Gulf, but requires recognition of her dominating position in northern Persia, while she recognizes Great Britain's similar position in southern Persia.

In regard to Turkey, the main principle will be the preservation of the integrity of the Ottoman empire, but the reforms in the local features is the avoidance of anything that could be construed as being hostile to Germany.

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RATE BILL PASSED, 71 TO 3.

FORAKER, MORGAN AND PETTUS CASE NEGATIVE VOTES.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The House today gave the Interstate Commerce Commission the right to fix railway freight rates, which was passed by a vote of 71 to 3. Those who voted in the negative were Senator Foraker of Ohio, a Republican, who has been consistently opposed to the principle of this legislation, and Senators Morgan and Pettus, Democrats, whose opposition was based on the ground that the regulation of rates should be left to the determination of the courts and that the measure permitted interference with the rights of States and denied the constitutional privilege of trial by jury.

There were no unusual scenes attending the passage of the bill, although some things were said that were very interesting. It was just before 2 o'clock when the question, "Shall the bill pass?" was put, but three hours elapsed before the final vote. The interim was taken up with explanations by Senators as to why they would or would not vote for the measure. The bill got many hard raps in the course of this experience meeting, and it was apparent that nobody in the Senate was satisfied with it.

The name of Senator Aldrich was the first on the roll call. Mr. Aldrich had gone out of town and some people believed, or professed to believe, that he had absented himself purposely to escape voting for the bill. But Senator Teller arose when Mr. Aldrich's name was called and explained that he was authorized by the Rhode Island Senate to say that where he present he would vote in the affirmative. This caused a titter in the galleries.

When the name of Senator Dubois was reached, Senator Long produced a note from Mr. Dubois, who is ill, saying that he was in favor of the Long railway court review amendment and opposed to the Allison court amendment which was put in the bill, but if he had been able to attend the session he would have voted for the measure.

There was a steady chorus of "aye" until Mr. Foraker's name was reached. He voted "no" in a voice that could be distinctly heard all over the chamber. The second "no" was Mr. Morgan's, and there was another titter when the venerable Mr. Pettus, who usually stands shoulder to shoulder in legislative matters with his colleague, echoed Mr. Morgan's negative.

No answer came when Senator Depue's name was called and he had already announced for his amendment. Senator Platt was not in the Senate when his turn came, but Senator Keam explained that Mr. Platt intended to vote for the bill but had been called away.

There was much explanation of this sort. In behalf of Senator Burrows, who went to New York to attend the wedding of his grandson, it was told that if he were present he would vote "aye." Similar explanations were made for Senators Gamble, Heyburn, Kittredge, Money, Patterson, Proctor, Sutcliff and Warren. Senator Burton, who is under sentence for a criminal act, was not present, of course. No explanation was made as to how Senator Gorman, who is very ill, would vote.

It had been reported among the Senate to-day that Senator La Follette, who since he came here has collected his reputation for radicalism, would vote against the bill because it did not go far enough. Some things he said in the closing debate seemed to verify this report. When the clerk called Mr. La Follette's name he was not in his seat. Then people began to whisper that he was too disgusted to stay. But they were mistaken. On the second roll call, it is called, Mr. La Follette appeared, and with the eyes of everybody upon him, voted "aye."

Mr. Tillman, too, furnished a little interest. The pitiful Senator has come into much prominence through the fact that he had charge of the bill in behalf of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He has denied the paternity of this foster legislative child of his, and frequently expressed dissatisfaction with the terms of the measure. When his name was called on the first roll he sat scowling at his desk. The clerk hesitated, awaiting a response from Mr. Tillman, but he kept his mouth tightly closed. But when the names of those who had not been recorded the first time were called, Mr. Tillman gave vent to a reluctant "aye."

The vote on the passage of the bill was as follows:

FOR THE BILL.—Republicans—Messrs. Alger, Allen, Allison, Anthony, Beveridge, Brandegee, Bullock, Burton, Campbell, Carter, Clark, Clark (Wyoming), Crane, Cullom, Dick, Dillingham, Dooliver, Dryden, Elkins, Flint, Frye, Fulton, Gallinger, Hale, Hansbrough, Hendricks, Hopkins, Keam, Knox, La Follette, Lodge, Long, McBurney, Millard, Nelson, Nixon, Patterson, Perkins, Piles, Scott, Smoot, Spooner, Warner and Wetmore—41.

AGAINST THE BILL.—Republicans—Messrs. Blackburn, Calkins, Curtis (Montana), Clarke (Arkansas), Clay, Culberson, Daniel, Foster, Frazier, Gearin, Latham, McCreary, McHenry, McLaughlin, Mallory, Martin, Newlands, Overman, Rayner, Simmons, Stone, Tallaferro, Teller and Tillman—27.

THE SENATE BILL.—Mr. Foraker, Republican, and Messrs. Morgan and Pettus, Democrats.

Prior to the beginning of the experience meeting the Senate amended the bill by knocking out the words "in its judgment" where it was provided that the Interstate Commerce Commission should fix rates which in its judgment were just and reasonable. The retention of these words was one of the features of the Allison compromise, through which it was thought possible to pass the measure, but the latest vote in the Senate declared that unless laws were eliminated the bill would be unconstitutional, because they conferred direct legislative powers of the commission. Mr. La Follette also succeeded in getting inserted an amendment permitting railroads to issue free passes to members of organizations of railroad men.

These things out of the way, the experience meeting was begun. Senator Foraker made a rather long speech in which